



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Note: Audio comments from U.S. Attorney Todd Graves, as well as photos from today's press conference and court documents related to these cases, may be downloaded from the district's Web site at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

FORMER POLICE SERGEANT, ATTORNEY BOTH INDICTED FOR ENTICING A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a former sergeant with the Richmond, Mo., Police Department and a Kansas City-area attorney have been indicted by a federal grand jury, in separate and unrelated cases, on charges related to using the Internet to entice a child to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

Rick E. Enss, 41, of Norborne, Mo., was charged in a five-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on March 30, 2005. That indictment was unsealed and made public today upon **Enss'** arrest and initial court appearance.

Enss worked on cases involving crimes against children for the Richmond Police Department, where he was employed for 10 years before resigning in October 2004.

"Protecting children from sexual and online predators is my highest local priority," Graves said. "This week, a federal grand jury in Kansas City is expected to return eight indictments in which children were targeted as victims of illegal sexual activity. In addition to this former police officer, the grand jury this morning indicted a prominent Kansas City-area attorney."

Jan Pleasant Helder, Jr., 42, of Mission Hills, Kan., was charged with using the Internet in an attempt to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity in a single-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. **Helder** is an attorney in private practice.

According to the indictment, **Helder** attempted to engage in sexual activity for which he could be charged under Missouri law with statutory rape and statutory sodomy.

“Together, these indictments should serve as a reminder to all of us, especially parents, that child predators may come from all walks of life and across socio-economic lines,” Graves said. “It’s especially tragic when the alleged perpetrator is a trusted and respected member of our community, and even more so when he’s a law enforcement officer or an officer of the court, both sworn to uphold the law.”

Count One of the federal indictment charging **Enss** alleges that, from March 15, 1999, to May 15, 2004, **Enss** used a computer connected to the Internet to entice or coerce a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity. According to the indictment, **Enss** used the Internet to entice or coerce a minor to engage in sexual activity for which he could be charged under Missouri law with statutory rape in the first and second degree, child molestation in the first and second degree, incest, and statutory sodomy in the first and second degree.

“This charge is unique,” Graves said, “because the allegation is that **Enss** forced a minor in his own home to view and read material over the Internet for the purpose of grooming a minor victim to engage in illegal sexual activity. In most cases, this statute is used to prosecute those who use the Internet to communicate with minors, using chat rooms or e-mail to lure children. This marks the first time we’ve used this federal statute to charge a defendant with using the Internet in this manner.”

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that, from March 15, 1999, to May 15, 2004, **Enss** provided child pornography to a minor for the purpose of inducing and persuading that minor to participate in illegal activity.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Enss** received child pornography over the Internet on Sept. 28, 2004.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Enss** was in possession of child pornography on Sept. 28 and 29, 2004.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Enss** was in possession of child pornography on June 20, 2004.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in both indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case against **Enss** is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Phillips. It was investigated by the State Technical Assistance Team and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This case against **Helder** is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow